#### **NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS**

### **December 31, 2006**

### **Neighborhood Concerns Identified**

Issues that have been brought forward through community meetings, such as the Walk and Talks, in District 4 on May 4, 2006; District 5 on June 8, 2006; and District 6 on July 18, 2006; monthly neighborhood meetings with Police; meeting at the Hmong Partnership Center with businesses and residents on April 20, 2006 on Buxton Study; Mayor=s Business association meeting at Ames Community Center in March, 2006; the Summit the Mayor had in December, 2005 at the J. A. Johnson School and other ongoing meetings in the neighborhoods on projects, etc. where concerns have been identified.

Listed below are some of the issues that have been identified by the neighborhoods. We have tried to put them in to various categories. Some could be listed in all categories, but it was an attempt to get everyone comments down and filter duplication later:

# **Housing and Community Development:**

- 1. Vacancies (both housing and commercial)
- 2. Illegal activities (prostitution, drugs, access to vacancies, trespassing)
- 3. Reverse the appearance of dilapidated houses and buildings
- 4. Dividing up of single family homes into multi-family dwellings
- 5. Lack of Code Enforcement (not even enforcement across the City)
- 6. Homeowners having to watch homes deteriorate
- 7. Vacant lots, maintenance issues, lack of planning
- 8. De-stabilization of single to multi-family; reduced commitment to home=s up-keep, especially outside
- 9. Landlords: lack of involvement, no responsibility, hard to tract landlords, multiply ownership by bad landlords
- 10. To much Section 8 Housing, Section 8 housing standards to minimal
- 11. Flipping, sub-prime lending
- 12. Unhealthy houses (lead paint, mold, etc.)
- 13. Overcrowding
- 14. Gentrification, displacement, increase property taxes
- 15. Lack of partnerships with business owners
- 16. Lack of leadership/resources in the community
- 17. Lack of parking for housing and business
- 18. Understanding cultural diversity and needs
- 19. Lack of one level, affordable housing (condominiums/townhomes) for seniors

### **Public Safety**

- 1. Open garages
- 2. Maintenance of Alleys (hiding places because of unkept appearance, shrubs, etc.)
- 3. Drug trafficking by adults and youth (immediately back on the streets)
- 4. Lack of resident involvement
- 5. Lack of space for Youth
- 6. Petty Crime
- 7. Loitering, children out late, roving groups of kids and young adults, intimidation
- 8. Lack of speed control
- 9. Drug buyers
- 10. Lack of drug treatment
- 11. Unsupervised Youth
- 12. Loud and foul music and language
- 13. Vacant areas and escape routes for drug traffickers
- 14. Lack of resident coordination with leaders and officials
- 15. Lack of police presence

## 16. Fear of seniors for their own safety

## **Workforce and Neighborhood Economic Development:**

- 1. Obsolescence/functionality of existing buildings along commercial corridors
- 2. Lack of expansion space (building and parking)
- 3. Lack of participation amount business leaders and organizations
- 4. Lack of cultural information shared among all business
- 5. Lack of marketing push for commercial corridors and across cultural/all businesses
- 6. Lack of commercial corridor street appeal
- 7. Create Living Wage Jobs
- 8. Jobs how do we match with workforce (education and training)
- 9. Where is job training opportunities and how is it being offered/marketed?
- 10. Cultural factors/preferences (languages, etc)
- 11. Create jobs for 60-80 year olds (intergenerational, mentoring, making a difference)

### **Urban Environment and Transit**

- 1. Watersheds
- 2. Education
- 3. Preservation
- 4. Community influences on ecology and ecology influenced on community
- 5. Water and Air Quality
- 6. Sewage
- 7. Contamination of Water, Soil, Air
- 8. Green Spaces such as parks, gardens, etc.
- 9 Need for different modes of transit
- 10. Need for gathering places for senior to feel save, walk, exercise

#### Education, Children, Youth and Families, Health

- 1. Children that have to take care of other children
- 2. Disrespect by Youth
- 3. Education
- 4. Children play in the street unattended. No place for structured recreation activities
- 5. Teenagers having no respect (littering, smoking, foul language, loud music)
- 6. No activities for children to migrate to
- 7. Families working many jobs to survive no one watching or controlling children
- 8. Unemployment
- 9. Lack of stability in the home
- 10. Lack of respect for oneself and others
- 11. Need more involvement by residents
- 12. Good quality, comprehensive and universal health care
- 13. Early childhood development training
- 14. Parenting classes
- 15. Need for social and recreational activities for all
- 16. Outreach and information/resources available in communities
- 17. Links to and access of legal rights
- 18. Promotion of healthful activities
- 19. Enforcement of truancy laws
- 20. Assistance for the aging residents
- 21. Need to be able to access the experts/leaders in the community
- 22. Need to increase graduation rates
- 23. Need to increase the need for higher education (college, technical schools, etc.)
- 24. Need for structured activities at recreation centers and libraries
- 25. Need for neighborhood to use the rich resources of our seniors